

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. A In a telecommunications network, a method of establishing a telecommunications group connection comprising the steps of:

in a database of said telecommunications network, storing identifications of members of a predefined group;

responsive to the operation of an indicator, transmitting a request to a said telecommunications network to establish a ~~duplex~~ group connection among ~~the~~ said members of a said predefined group identified in said message request;

in a said database, translating between the identification of the predefined group and the identifications of the members of the predefined group;

in said network, establishing connections between members of said predefined group and a media duplicator for receiving input signals from members of the predefined group and for transmitting group output signals to members of the predefined group.

CLAIM 2 (currently amended):

2. The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ group connection is a voice group connection wherein members of the predefined group can hear a plurality of other talking members of the predefined group.

CLAIM 3 (currently amended):

3. The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said the~~ group connection is a video group connection wherein members of the predefined group can see a plurality of other members of the predefined group.

CLAIM 4 (currently amended):

4. The method of claim 1 wherein a connection to a storage system is substituted for a connection to an absent member of the predefined group.

CLAIM 5 (currently amended):

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a connection to a pre-assigned alternate member is substituted for a connection to an absent member of the predefined group.

CLAIM 6 (currently amended):

6. The method of claim 1 wherein a leader of said predefined group designates treatment of connections to absent members of said predefined group.

CLAIM 7 (original):

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said indicator is a soft button.

CLAIM 8 (original):

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said indicator is a telephone alphanumeric key.

CLAIM 9 (currently amended):

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

a specific member of said predefined group signaling said media duplicator to request a half duplex connection from said specific member's station to other members of the predefined group.

CLAIM 10 (original):

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting a request comprises the steps of:

transmitting said request to a server; and

transmitting a series of set-up requests from said server to said telecommunications network.

CLAIM 11 (currently amended):

11. The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ the group connection is a half duplex connection.

CLAIM 12 (currently amended):

12. The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ the group connection is a full duplex connection.

CLAIM 13 (currently amended):

13. ~~Apparatus~~ In a telecommunications network, apparatus establishing a telecommunications group connection comprising:

means, comprising a database, for storing identifications of members of a predefined group;

means, responsive to the operation of an indicator, for transmitting a request to a said telecommunications network to establish a group connection among the said members of a said predefined group identified in said message request;

in a said database, means for translating between the identification of the group and the identifications of the members of the predefined group;

in said network, means for establishing connections between said members of said predefined group and a media duplicator for receiving input signals from said members of the said predefined group and for transmitting group output signals to said members of the said predefined group.

CLAIM 14 (currently amended):

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein ~~said~~ the group connection is a voice group connection wherein members of the predefined group can hear a plurality of other talking members of the predefined group.

CLAIM 15 (currently amended):

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein ~~said~~ the group connection is a video group connection wherein members of the predefined group can see a plurality of other members of the predefined group.

CLAIM 16 (original):

16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said indicator is a soft button.

CLAIM 17 (original):

17. The method of claim 13 wherein said indicator is a telephone alphanumeric key.

CLAIM 18 (original):

18. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for transmitting a request comprises:

means for transmitting said request to a server; and

means for transmitting a series of set-up requests from said server to said telecommunications network.

CLAIM 19 (currently amended):

19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein ~~said~~ the group connection is a half duplex connection.

CLAIM 20 (currently amended):

20. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein ~~said~~ the group connection is a full duplex connection.